

REMARKS

The allowance of claims 19-30 (it is noted that the Examiner included claim 18 as allowable, but claim 18 was previously cancelled) is acknowledged and appreciated. Solely in order to expedite prosecution, claims 1-18 have been cancelled without prejudice/disclaimer to the subject matter embodied thereby. Accordingly, all pending claims have been allowed.

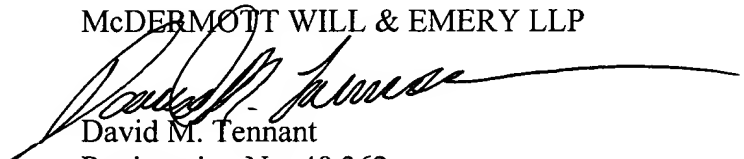
Moreover, the cancellation of claim 1 has rendered the rejection of that claim moot.

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully request an immediate Notice of Allowance. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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